

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 158057
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY IO/UNA:BJSHARP
APPROVED BY IO/UNA:JFTEFFT
S/S-O:KDSCOTT

-----015150 212345Z /63

O 212138Z JUN 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 7784

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 158057

EXDIS FOR AMB. YOUNG FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT KINSHASA 6483 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN
BRUSSELS LONDON PARIS JUN 21.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 64
83

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, EAID, PEPR, CG

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE ON REFORMS: BRITISH AND BELGIAN MEET WITH MOBUTU

REF: A) KINSHASA 6429; B) KINSHASA 6393; C) KINSHASA 6370

1. SUMMARY: FOUR OF PARIS FIVE CHIEFS OF MISSION HAVE MADE
DEMARCHES ON REFORMS TO MOBUTU AS OF EVENING JUNE 20. GERMAN
CHARGE HAS REQUESTED AUDIENCE AND IS AWAITING APPOINTMENT.
BRITISH AND BELGIAN, WHO SAW MOBUTU FOLLOWING MY DEMARCHE,
FOUND HIM CALM NOT UNRECEPTIVE, BUT OBVIOUSLY FEELING UNDER
PRESSURE. ALTHOUGH BOTH AMBASSADORS REPORTEDLY RAISED SOME
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 158057

TOUGH AND SENSITIVE ISSUES, I HAVE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT OTHER
THREE AMBASSADORS HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY GENTLE WITH MOBUTU AND
HAVE LET US CARRY MAIN BURDEN OF DELIVERING HARDER LINE. MOBUTU
REPEATED TO BRITISH AND BELGIAN HIS ASSURANCES MADE TO ME THAT
NEXT THREE MONTHS WILL BRING MANY OF IMPROVEMENTS WHICH OUR
DEMARCHES SOUGHT. END SUMMARY.

2. PARIS FIVE REPS MET AFTERNOON NUNE 20 TO DISCUSS MEETINGS WHICH FRENCH, US, BRITISH, AND BELGIAN AMBASSADORS (IN THAT ORDER) HAD HELD WITH MOBUTU TO DELIVER DEMARCHE ON REFORMS. GERMAN CHARGE HAD REQUESTED APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT BUT WAS STILL WAITING WORD ON WHEN MOBUTU WOULD RECEIVE HIM. BRITISH AND BELGIAN AGREED WITH MY JUDGMENT (REF A) THAT MOBUTU WAS NOT AS UNRECEPTIVE TO OUR DEMARCHES AS WE MIGHT HAVE ANTICIPATED. THEY AGREED THAT PRESIDENT SEEMED UNDER SOME STRAIN AND APPARENTLY FELT BELEAGURED. MOBUTU REPORTEDLY ASSURED BOTH AMBASSADORS THAT, GIVEN THREE MONTHS TO WORK ON ZAIRE'S MANY SERIOUS PROBLEMS, HE WILL DEMONSTRATE REAL PROGRESS ON REFORMS.

3. BRITISH AMBASSADOR SAID HE COMPLIMENTED MOBUTU ON HIS OVERTURES TO KAUNDA AND EXPRESSED HOPE FOR CONTINUED RECONCILIATION OF ZAIRE WITH ZAMBIA. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ZAIRE AND ANGOLA. AMBASSADOR SAID HE TOLD PRESIDENT THAT HIS WORDS ON REFORMS HAD BEEN WELCOMED BY ZAIRE'S FRIENDS; HOWEVER THE WORDS HAD NOT BEEN MATCHED BY DEEDS. MOBUTU EMPHASIZED THE NUMBER AND SERIOUSNESS OF THE PROBLEMS HE FACES AND ASKED THAT HE BE GIVEN THREE MONTHS TO PROVE THAT HE CAN HANDLE THEM. BRITISH AMBASSADOR PROPOSED THAT MOBUTU DELEGATE MORE POWER TO MINISTRIES. HE REMINDED PRESIDENT THAT ALTHOUGH UK HAD OFFERED TO BUILD BRIDGES IN ZAIRE, IMPLEMENTATION OF PROPOSED ASSISTANCE WAS STALLED BY INACTION AT GOZ LECTURED ACTING FON MINISTER ABOUT ALLEGED DELAY.) BRITISH CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 158057

AMBASSADOR SAID MOBUTU WAS IN GOOD HUMOR THROUGHOUT MEETING.

4. BELGIAN AMBASSADOR REPORTEDLY DELIVERED LETTER FROM KING BAUDOUIN WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS UNRELATED TO DEMARCHE AND DEALT AT LEAST IN PART WITH QUESTION OF ZAIRIAN OPPOSITION ELEMENTS IN BELGIUM. BELGIAN AMBASSADOR UNDERScored GOB'S OFFER TO PROVIDE URGENT ASSISTANCE OVER THE NEXT THREE MONTHS, BUT HE REMINDED MOBUTU THAT CONTROLS WOULD BE MAINTAINED OVER EMERGENCY SUPPLIES ALL THE WAY THROUGH DISTRIBUTION TO CONSUMERS. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED NEED FOR RESTRAINT OVER FAZ TO PREVENT ITS VICTIMIZING POPULATION. MOBUTU SAID EVERHTING COULD NOT BE CHANGED OVERNIGHT BUT THAT HE INTENDED IN THIS CONNECTION TO ABOLISH THE GENDARMERIE. WHEN BELGIAN ASKED MOBUTU ABOUT LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FOR AFRICAN PEACE-KEEPING FORCES, MOBUTU SAID HE WAS STUDYING THE QUESTION AND HOPED HE COULD "COUNT ON THE AMERICANS" FOR SOME HELP. WHEN BELGIAN URGED MOBUTU TO PRESS FORWARD ON NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AND TO PUT HIS MINISTERS TO WORK, MOBUTU REACTED POSITIVELY. BELGIAN SAID HE TOLD MOBUTU THAT AT BRUSSELS ZAIRE'S FRIENDS HAD GIVEN GOZ THREE MONTHS' TIME IN WHICH TO MAKE NECESSARY CHANGES. MOBUTU PROMISED THAT THOSE WHO HAD SHOWN SUCH CONFIDENCE IN ZAIRE WOULD NOT BE DISAPPMNTED.

5. COMMENT: IT IS APPARENT THAT THE US DEMARCHE, TOGETHER WITH PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER, CONSTITUTED THE TOUGHEST OF THE PITCHES MADE TO MOBUTU. ALTHOUGH BRITISH ASSURED THE OTHER FOUR THAT HE SPOKE FIRMLY TO PRESIDENT ON NEED FOR CHANGES, I HAVE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT HE WAS SOMEWHAT DISARMED BY MOBUTU'S APPARENT REASONABLENESS AND CONSEQUENTLY WAS COMPARATIVELY GENTLE IN HIS PRESENTATION. THIS MIGHT HELP TO EXPLAIN WHAT BRITISH TERMED "A SURPRISINGLY EASY PASSAGE". BELGIAN APPARENTLY WAS ABLE TO MAKE SOME OF THE DIFFICULT POINTS. HOWEVER, IT IS CLEAR THAT GOB CONTINUES TO FEEL ESPECIALLY VULNERABLE AND HAS GONE TO GREAT LENGTHS TO AVOID PROVOKING MOBUTU ANY MORE THAN NECESSARY. VERY MUCH PREOCCUPIED BY THE WELFARE AND STATE OF MIND OF THE LARGE BELGIAN POPULATION HERE, THE GOB HAS ALREADY TURNED ITS ATTENTION TO PUTTING IN PLACE AN EMERGENCY

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 158057

ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO PREVENT ANY FURTHER SLIDE TOWARD A SITUATION WHERE THERE MIGHT BE FOOD RIOTS OR OTHER BREAKDOWN OF CIVIL ORDER. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHY THE GERMAN CHARGE HAS FAILED SO FAR TO GAIN AN AUDIENCE. IT COULD BE SIMPLY A MATTER OF SCHEDULING AND HIS CHARGE STATUS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE DELAY COULD BE RELATED TO MOBUTU'S IRRITATION WITH THE VOICE OF GERMANY'S DETAILED REPORT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE DEMARCHES BEFORE THEY WERE MADE.

CUTLER

UNQUOTE VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEMARCHE, GOVERNMENT REFORM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE158057
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BJSHARP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780259-0586
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780634/aaaabdfd.tel
Line Count: 146
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bc303984-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 KINSHASA 6429, 78 KINSHASA 6393, 78 KINSHASA 6370
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2259533
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEMARCHE ON REFORMS: BRITISH AND BELGIAN MEET WITH MOBUTU
TAGS: PDEV, EAID, PEPR, US, UK, FR, GE, BE, CG
To: USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bc303984-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014